

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1 - 16. (Previously Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A functionalized silsesquioxane, selected from the group consisting of octakis(aminophenyl)silsesquioxane, octakis(N-maleimidoaminophenyl)silsesquioxane, octakis(acetylphenyl)silsesquioxane, and octakis(bromophenyl)silsesquioxane).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing functionalized silsesquioxane macromonomers comprising providing a phenyl-substituted silsesquioxane and substituting phenyl group(s) of said phenyl-substituted silsesquioxane with a reactive functional group or precursor thereof wherein said step of substituting comprises nitrating phenyl groups of said phenyl-substituted silsesquioxane to form a nitrophenyl-substituted silsesquioxane followed by reducing the nitrophenyl groups to aminophenyl groups to form an aminophenyl-substituted silsesquioxane.

22 - 27. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) In a process for the preparation of a functionalized silsesquioxane wherein a silica source is converted to polyanionic form employing a quaternary ammonium hydroxide, followed by reaction with a

hydridoalkylchlorosilane to form a silsesquioxane bearing hydridosilyl-functional reactive groups, and optionally employing said silsesquioxane bearing hydridosilyl-functional reactive groups to hydrosilylate an unsaturated organic compound, the improvement comprising selecting as the silica source a silica source obtained from the combustion or calcination of silica-containing natural products.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 38 wherein said silica source is one or more of fly ash or rice hull ash.